

REMARKS

Below, the applicant's comments are preceded by related remarks of the examiner set forth in small bold type.

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The current title is imprecise.

The following title is suggested: "A power saving circuit has an input line coupled to an external host and a keeper to hold the line in a weakly held state".

The applicant has amended the title as suggested by the examiner. The applicant does not consider this to be the correct title, but has made the amendment to facilitate issuance of a patent.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 21 and 23-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitations "the state of the external signal line" in line 8; "the control" in line 9; "the control" in lines 9-10. There are insufficient antecedent basis for those limitations in the claim.

Claim 6 recites the limitations "the output buffer stage" in line 3; "the state" in line 3. There are insufficient antecedent basis for those limitations in the claim.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 7 and 28 are rejected because they incorporate the deficiencies of claim 1.

Claim 9 recites the limitation "the inverse" in lines 9-10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation in the claim.

Claim 14 recites the limitation "the state" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation in the claim.

Claims 10, 12, 14-16 and 29 are rejected because they incorporate the deficiencies of claim 9.

Claim 21 recites the limitation "the circuitry" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation in the claim.

Claim 23 recites the limitations "the state" in line 2; "the SLEEP signal" in line 3. There are insufficient antecedent basis for the limitations in the claim.

Claim 24 recites the limitation "the PAD signal line" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation in the claim.

Claims 25-27 are rejected because they incorporate the deficiencies of claim 24.

Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, and 21 have been amended. Claims 23 and 24 have been cancelled.

5. Claims 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bland et al. (Bland), U.S. patent no. 5,517,650 in view of Bacigalupo (Bacigalupo), US patent no. 6,448,812. Bland and Bacigalupo are prior art references cited in prior office action.

Claim 24 has been cancelled. Claim 25 has been amended to depend on claim 1. Claims 26 and 27 have been amended to depend on claim 25.

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6. Claims 17-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Bland et al. (Bland), US. patent no. 5,517,650 and Bacigalupo (Bacigalupo), US patent no. 6,448,812.

Claims 17-20 and 23 have been cancelled. Claims 21 and 22 have been amended to depend on claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14-16, 28 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

8. Claims 30-32 are allowed over prior art.

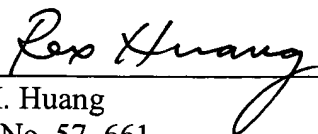
Claims 1, 6, 9, and 14 have been amended.

Cancelled claims have been cancelled without prejudice. Any circumstance in which the applicant has addressed certain comments of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other comments of the examiner. Any circumstance in which the applicant has made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims. Any circumstance in which the applicant has amended a claim does not mean that the applicant concedes any of the examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

Enclosed is a \$120 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, reference 10559-450001.

Respectfully submitted,

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